

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090609

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: GENERAL KHANH'S VIEWS

1. AT REQUEST OF SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON'S OFFICE, DEP.ASST. SECY. MILLER SA' GENERAL NGUYEN KHANH APRIL 19 TO HEAR HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. KHANH REVIEWED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL HIS PAST INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAMESE AFFAIRS, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH HIS CREDENTIALS AS A MAN WITH GOOD CONTACTS WITH THE PRG.

2. KHANH INDICATED THAT WITHIN THE PAST TWO WEEKS DRV AMBASSADOR SUNG IN PARIS HAD SOUGHT HIM OUT. KHANH CHARACTERIZED THIS AS UNUSUAL AND THE FIRST TIME THE DRV HAD SOUGHT CONTACT WITH HIM. ACCORDING TO KHANH, SUNG SAID THAT THE GVN'S RAPID COLLAPSE IN MR I AND II HAD TAKEN THE DRV BY SURPRISE AND PRESENTED THEM WITH SO MANY PROBLEMS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A POLITICAL SOLUTION. KHANH SAID HE GOT THE SAME PITCH FROM PRG REPRESENTATIVES PHAM VAN BA AND DINH BA THI IN PARIS. BOTH DRV AND PRG REPRESENTATIVES, OF COURSE, EXPRESSED READINESS TO NEGOTIATE

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A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE GVN ONCE THIEU HAD DIS-

APPEARED FROM THE SCENE. KHANH HIMSELF IS NOW PUBLICLY
ADVOCATING THIEU'S DEPARTURE,BOTH BECAUSE THIEU HAS LOST
THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM AND BECAUSE

HIS DEPARTURE WILL FACILITATE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
KHANH PROFESSED TO HAVE NO PERSONAL AMBITIONS FOR RE-
TURNING TO POWER IN SOUTH VIET-NAM BUT ONLY WISHED TO
ASSIST IN ANYWAY POSSIBLE A SOLUTION FOR HIS COUNTRY.

3. MILLER SIMPLY LISTENED AND DESCRIBED U.S. POLICY IN
TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND THE SECRETARY'S
RECENT STATEMENTS BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

4. ALTHOUGH KHANH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ROSE KUSCHNER, SHE
DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVERSATION. KHANH, OF
COURSE, COULD DESCRIBE TO HER THE CONVERSATION AND THERE-
FORE REFERENCE TO IT COULD APPEAR PUBLICLY. KISSINGER

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